

Avon Congregational Church's Electronic Weekly Newsletter

November 25, 2026 **www.avon-church.org**

Worship and Hospitality Worship Volunteers for Sunday, November 29:
Reader – Gail Alvord, Trustee – Sue Crowther, Usher – Sally Albrecht,
Videographer – Kate Rickson-McNally
Coffee Hour Hosts – Beth Ferrari, Coffee Hour Food – Kathy Hine

Gifts of Love Tree: The Season of Gratitude and Giving – Please consider taking a gift tag (or two) for the Gifts of Love in Avon Giving Tree for their annual Holiday Shop. **Please return your UNWRAPPED gift to the church, with its tag, by Sunday December 6th**. Gifts will be transported to Gifts of Love on your behalf. Questions? Contact Betsy Van Loon at Betsy.vanloon@gmail.com.





Greening of the Church and Pizza
Monday, November 30, 6:00 PM
Love to decorate for the season? Join us in "Greening the Church". We'll gather in the kitchen for pizza (free-will offering to cover expenses), then make merry as we put up wreaths, trees, swags and more!



Readers wanted for the Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on December 24th at 7:30 PM – If this is a meaningful service to you and you're interested in being a reader, please contact Pastor Chris at 860-678-0488 or pastor@avon-church.org.



Coffee with the Pastor will take place the 2nd through 4th (or 5th) Wednesdays, 10 am at the Coffee Trade (21 West Main St.) each month. Please note: there is no longer CWTP on the 1st Wednesday of each month, often when we are cooking for 1st Friday Dinners. **Come by for conversation and fellowship.** Pop in or stay for the hour. See you there!

Toddler Adult & Child Classes--Twoodles Avon Nursery School is very excited to start their very own Toddler program, Twoodles. This class is for children ages two and up and will be a time for them with an adult to attend an hour-long program instructed by the Director Jolene Tefoe in our meeting room twice per month. We will sing, dance, and learn through developmentally appropriate activities.



Children are invited to play on the playground after class. This is open to the community, so feel free to invite neighbors and friends. The cost of the class will be $10.00 per child.

The members of our Toddler classes will also be invited to our family programs, such as Table 'or Treat and Harvest Feast.

Future dates for Twoodles class will be:
Thursday, December 3rd 10:00-11:00 am
Thursday, December 17th 10:00-11:00 am

*Please sign up by contacting Jolene Tefoe, Director of Avon Nursery School, at 860-845-3704 or ans@avon-church.org.



Advent Bible Study, Library, Thursday, December 3, 10:30 AM Join Professor of Religion, Leslie DesMangles, who will guide us through a side by side of the two Synoptic Gospels (Matthew and Luke) to glean from each the full story of Jesus' birth. We'll also look at other ancient extant writings, namely the Gospel of James to see what else we might add to our Advent reflection and preparation of Christ's birth.

Salvation Army Bell-Ringing - Jingle-jingle! Come ring the bells for Salvation Army on **Saturday, December 5th at Walmart!** Greeting shoppers with a cheery "Merry Christmas" is a fun and easy way to help those in need and 90% of the proceeds are used to support local residents! This is only a 1-hour commitment & no experience is necessary. You can bring a partner or we will find one for you, if you don't want to ring alone. Sign up in the hallway and Lynn Del Cegno will contact you with further details. Questions? Call Lynn Del Cegno: 860-690-9675.

Poinsettias in Honor and Memory of Loved Ones for Christmas. Christmas Poinsettias add sacred beauty and help make our Advent and Christmastide celebration more meaningful. Would you like to provide one (or more) to grace our sanctuary? It is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one. Please fill out an order form and return with your money no later than Sunday, December 6th. Each plant costs $12.00. Include check or cash for the full amount with the order form. Forms are available in E-Tidings and the office. Make checks payable to Avon Congregational Church and return to the church office.





Advent Study and Activity, Library, Thursday, December 10, 10:30 AM Have you ever wondered why Christmas has such a strong emotional pull? Join Pastor Chris, who using Rev. Dr Kendrick Norris' book *Perspectives on Christmas* will delve into the history, the psychology and Universal 'Motifs' of the origin for why this season more than any other has such a strong hold on us all. A hands-on 'just for fun' activity will follow.

All-Church Advent Potluck Supper & Hymn Sing, Fellowship Hall
Friday, December 11, 6:00 PM - Who said the Whos of Whoville have all the fun?? Take a break from the hurry of Christmas preparations. Prepare your favorite potluck supper dish and come for our all-ages Advent Potluck Supper to include a hymn sing of all your favorite Christmas Carols! "Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas … perhaps … means a little bit more!"





All-Church Pageant Rehearsal, following worship Sunday, December 13, 11:15 AM - Have you ever thought about being a shepherd or an angel? How about a Magi? Or the ornery innkeeper? This is your time to shine as we usher in Christ's light to our Advent Season. A one-time All-Church Pageant rehearsal willfollow worship on December 13th. Lines will be assigned, costume too!

Holiday Brass Concert by *Bloom Brass*, Sanctuary, Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 PM
Enjoy your favorite Christmas tunes, from traditional carols to contemporary favorites, you will delight in music on trumpets, horn, trombone and tuba! From John Rutter to John Lennon, from the Chipmunks to Mele Kalikimaka! Reception to follow! Free!





Caroling at The Residence at Brookside, Wednesday, December 16. 10:30 AM
Carolers wanted! We've been invited to sing for residents of Brookside, 117 Simsbury Rd. Avon.
We'll meet at the church at 10:15 AM and carpool! Songbooks provided.



Christmas Pageant Sunday, Sunday, December 20, 10:00 AM - Our Annual Christmas Pageant will take place during the service. We welcome all church members and friends, young and old, to take part in our production! Come let us adore him and be a part of this beloved tradition at our church.

Darkest Night Service of Healing, Monday, December 21, 7:00 PM: - Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with job loss, health challenges or simply feeling overwhelmed by the stress and pressures of the season, grief comes in many forms and might lay an emotional pall over the holidays. That's why we're holding a service of reflection and healing on the longest night.



Gathering Ideas for 2027 Fundraising for Avon Congregational Church Church leadership wants to hear your ideas on effective fund raisers. Please complete the poll (attached at the end of E Tidings and located at church). The Avon Congregational Church depends on a combination of member pledging, fundraisers and income from 12 West Main Rentals, 1st Friday Dinners, our Hidden Treasures store and other nominal rentals to achieve our income goals. While in recent years we have reduced the need for how much fundraising we do, it is still a vital need for our congregation's solvency. Moreover, it gives other intangible benefits through building community, offering outreach and providing wonderful memory-making. Have an idea for something new? Let us know your thoughts!



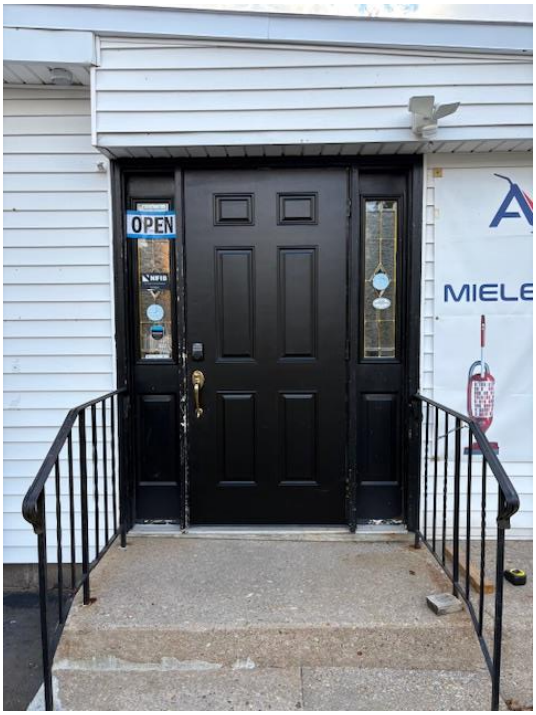


Thank you for your donations to our annual Thanksgiving baskets benefitting Avon Social Services. Jennifer Bennett, Director of Avon Social Services, happily accepts our generous donations. Great job ACC!

Christian Service & Outreach committee



Knock and the door shall be answered Many thanks to Greg Boswell and Kent May for replacing and installing a brand new door for our 12 W. Main tenant next-door at Avon vacuums. The last door was worse for the wear and needed replacing and Greg and Kent ordered and took on the project alone. Kudos and thank you gentlemen!

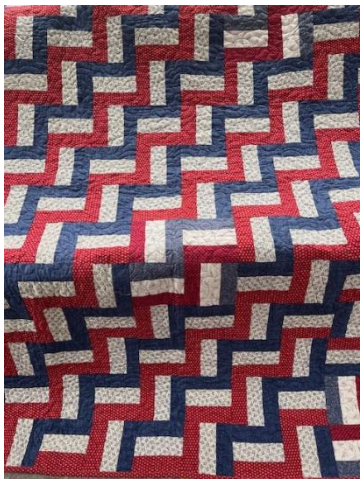


Sew Thankful Quilters/Quilts of Valor

On November 17 Sew Thankful Quilters/Quilts of Valor awarded 7 quilts made by our Sew Thankful Quilters ministry to veterans at the Rocky Hill Medical Facility. The Veterans Commissioner was there to honor those veterans receiving a Quilt of Valor. The Veterans, their families, and all the staff are much appreciative. The nurses say how the quilts brighten the beds as they walk the halls.









Christmas Poinsettias in honor or memory of your loved ones.

Christmas Poinsettias add sacred beauty and help make more meaningful our late Advent and our Christmastide celebration.

Would you like to provide one (or more) to grace our sanctuary? It is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one. Please fill out the order form and return with your money no later than Sunday, December 6th.

Each plant costs $12.00. Include check or cash for the full amount with the order form. Make checks payable to Avon Congregational Church and return to the church office.

CUT HERE

Color and number of plants: Red_____ White _____

The flowers you are ordering on this form may be taken home by donors following the Christmas Eve service.

Amount enclosed: $_____

Flowers are given by (your name(s)):

_____

In HONOR or MEMORY (circle one) of _____

Gathering Ideas for 2027 Fundraising for Avon Congregational Church

The Avon Congregational Church depends on a combination of member pledging, fundraisers and income from 12 West Main Rentals and other nominal rental income to achieve our income goals. While in recent years we have reduced the need for how much fundraising we do, it is still a vital need for our congregation's solvency. Moreover, it gives other intangible benefits through building community, offering outreach and providing wonderful memory-making. Our ongoing fundraising through some First Friday Dinners and our Hidden Treasures Store will continue.

Looking forward, church leadership wants to hear your ideas on effective fund raisers. The list below includes tried and true fundraisers and some newly posed ideas. **Please check off two or three events you would support with your time and talents. In addition, we'd love for you to share any ideas you have for any new approaches.**

Tried and True Fundraisers over Recent Years:

____ Rummage sale ____ Cemetery Tour with live actors

____ Quilt Show ____ The Joys of Christmas Dinner Show

____ Live Auction ____ A Ladies Tea Party with Guest Speaker

____ The Wytch Trial

____ No Work Fundraiser (people pledged money in lieu of having an event.)

Newly Proposed Ideas:

____ Theatrical performance (using fellowship hall for set building and rehearsal space)

____ Musical Dinner Theater

Your ideas:

_____

_____

Print your name_____

Please print your name here. Anonymous data is not helpful. And while we may ask for clarification on your ideas, we don't suggest that you need be the fundraising event chairperson!

Please complete and return your survey by Sunday November, 22nd. You are welcome to:

- Email your responses to the church office at office@avon-church.org
- Mail responses to the church at 6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001
- If you are attending worship in person, there will be paper surveys available in church & the Hall
- Paper surveys can be placed in the collection plate or in the provided basket in fellowship hall.

Livestreaming Services and Accessing Church Social Media

Sunday services are accessible on the Avon Congregational Church Facebook page and our YouTube channel. The links for those are below:

https://www.facebook.com/avoncongregational **or**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9C9s7fZ28HKpSllaoeGZfQ

For information about Avon Congregational Church, click on the following link:

The Avon Congregational Church Website
www.avon-church.org

Most events and lots of pictures are often posted to our ACC Facebook Page

Statement of Inclusion

In keeping with the life and teaching of Christ Jesus, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, ability or social or economic status into our community of faith. We affirm the humanity of all people as unique individuals made in God's image. We also affirm the special gifts that each person has to offer. We invite all to participate in the full life of the church and covenant of our Christian community.

Staff Contact List – Online Church Information

Rev. Chris Solimene, Pastor	pastor@avon-church.org
Karen Levan, Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist	music@avon-church.org
Jolene Tefoe, Dir. of Avon Nursery School	ans@avon-church.org
Charry Salmon, Office Manager	office@avon-church.org
John Carlson, Finance Administrator	administrator@avon-church.org
Lenny Lebatique, Sexton	

Church Address: 6 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001
Church Phone Number 860-678-0488
Church Website www.avon-church.org
Church Wi-Fi: avonchurch

Scan to Donate

Steering Circle 2026 – 2027

Moderator – Jerry Humble; Treasurer – Bob Linderman; Clerk – Candace Doersch; Worship – Alex Harris and Kent May; Nurturing – Lee Egan and Joan Miller; Outreach – Lynn Del Cegno and Leslie Desmangles; Support – Kate Allen and Betsy Van Loon; Members – at - Large – Fran Festa and Kate Rickson - McNally